(b) whether it is a fact that according to them, patients spend Rs. 25,000 crore in a year on their treatment of tobacco related diseases and thus Government revenue by way of taxes is hardly Rs. 6000 crore; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to make the tobacco ban more effective ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR) : (a) to (c) Studies conducted for the World Bank's Report of 1999 "Curbing the Epidemic: Governments and the Economics of Tobacco Control" indicated that most countries would see no net job losses, and that a few would see net gains, if tobacco consumption fell. Money that smokers once spent on cigarette would instead be spent on other goods and services, generating other jobs to replace any that will be lost from the tobacco industry.

According to studies conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the cost of management of major tobacco related diseases was Rs. 27761.10 crore in 1999. As informed by the Tobacco Board, total excise duty earned on cigarettes and beedis was Rs. 5550 crore in 1998-99.

A comprehensive Bill, namely, "The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 2001" for discouraging use of tobacco products, was introduced by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the Rajya Sabha on 7-3-2001, which was referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development of the Rajya Sabha for examination and report. The said Committee has submitted its report to the Rajya Sabha on 5-12-2001.

Artificial heart valve

† *290. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian scientists have developed the artificial heart valve;

(b) if so, whether it has been tested and found fit;

(c) if so, the estimated cost of the developed artificial heart valve in the country; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the steps taken to develop this valve on a large scale for the benefit of heart patients ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR) : (a) to (d) Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, in collaboration with the National Research Development Corporation, has developed an indigenous heart valve, named Chitra Valve. The National Research Development Corporation has transferred the technology to M/s T.T.K. Pharma for commercial exploitation of this technology. After successful clinical trials, the Chitra Valve costing around Rs. 14,000—Rs. 16,000/- has been implanted on over 5000 heart patients all over the country.

Status of malaria in Gujarat

*291. SHRI AHMED PATEL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of malaria under National Health Programme in Gujarat;

(b) whether it is a fact that malaria cases are on the rise in the State; and

(c) if so, the corrective measures being taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR) : (a) to (c) Malaria incidence in the State of Gujarat had shown declining trend in year 2000 as compared to year 1998 and 1999. However, during the current year, there has been an increase in incidence as per the report upto October in comparison to the corresponding period of last year.

Following measures are being taken for prevention and control of malaria:—

1. Early Detection and Prompt Treatment (EDPT) of cases has been intensified by gearing up surveillance.

2. Facilities for detection and treatment of cases have been extended to the village level by involving community volunteers as Drug Distribution Centre (DDCs) and Malaria Link Volunteers (MLVs) in high-risk areas.

3. Rapid Diagnostic Kits for malaria case detection has been introduced for piloting.